

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A digital electronic camera system, comprising:

a digital electronic camera including:

5 a lens; and

an electronic image pick-up which receives images
through the lens;

a detachably connected input/output interface including:

a connector which detachably connects to the camera;

10 a connector which connects to a processing device
which is external to the electronic camera; and

a memory which stores a control program for
controlling communication between the camera and the
processing device.

15 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the camera
further includes:

control means, connected to the connector which
detachably connects to the camera, which controls an input and
output of the camera using the control program.

20 3. A system according to claim 1, wherein the camera
further includes:

a memory;

means for transferring the control program from the
memory of the interface to the memory of the camera; and

25 control means, connected to the memory of the
camera, which controls an input and output of the camera using

the control program in the memory of the detachably connected interface.

4. A system according to claim 3, wherein:

5 said means for transferring transfers the control program from the memory of the interface to the memory of the camera at a time when the interface is connected to the camera.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the camera further includes:

10 image coding means for encoding digital representations of images captured by the electronic image pick-up.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein the camera further includes:

a microphone for capturing audio signals.

15 7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the camera further comprises:

a memory for storing images captured by the electronic image pick-up; and

retrieving means for retrieving images stored in the memory of the camera.

20 8. A system according to claim 1, wherein the interface further comprises:

a memory for storing images captured by the electronic image pick-up.

25 9. A system according to claim 1, wherein the memory of the interface is a non-volatile rewritable memory.

10. A method for controlling a digital electronic camera, comprising the steps of:

capturing an image by an electronic image pick-up of the camera;

storing the captured image in an image memory; and

transferring the image in the image memory to a

5 processing device external to the camera through a detachably connected interface of the camera using a communication controller which uses a control program contained in the interface.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein:

10 said step of transferring transfers the image using the communication controller which is located in the camera.

12. A method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

15 transferring the control program to a control program memory in the camera,

wherein said step of transferring the image transfers the image using the communication controller which uses the control program in the control program memory of the camera.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein said step of
20 transferring the control program transfers the control program at a time when the interface is connected to the camera.

14. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

encoding the captured image; and

25 recording audio by a microphone of the camera.

15. An input/output interface which detachably connects to a digital electronic camera having a lens and an electronic

image pick-up which receives images through the lens, the input/output interface comprising:

a connector which detachably connects to the camera;

a connector which connects to a processing device which
5 is external to the electronic camera; and

a memory which stores a control program for controlling communication between the camera and the processing device.

16. An input/output interface according to claim 15, wherein the digital electronic camera includes a control
10 means, connected to the connector which detachably connects to the camera, which controls an input and output of the camera using the control program in the memory of the detachably connected interface, wherein:

the input/output interface includes means for
15 transferring the control program from the memory of the interface to a memory of the camera and the control means controls the input and output of the camera using the control program in the memory of the camera which has been transferred from the memory of the input/output interface.